Automated Communications Exchange System
ACES Release Notes
January 30, 2011

On Sunday, January 30, 2011, a new release of ACES was implemented containing changes to Internet Forms and the ACES Processing Detail Report. This release includes changes that meet the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (also known as Health Care Reform) requirements regarding:

- Prohibition of retroactive adjustments to employee health coverage as a result of time base changes
- Revised eligibility criteria for dependents – the Economically Dependent relation type will be replaced with Parent-Child Relationship.

For more information about these Health Care Reform requirements, see Circular Letter 600-008-11 regarding New Regulations Affecting Cancellations or Discontinuance of Health Coverage due to a Reduction in Time Base and Circular Letter 600-011-11 regarding Eligibility Criteria for Dependents in a Parent-Child Relationship.

The following is a list of the changes reflected in ACES as of Monday, January 31, 2011:

Internet Forms

Reason Code Changes

500 Insuff Hours. This reason code is no longer available. Instead, use reason code 502 to cancel employees who no longer qualify due to reduction in time base, tenure, or did not meet control period hours.

502 Time Base/tenure Chg. Now titled *Reason Code 502 Reduction in Time Base/Hours*. Retroactive cancellations are not allowed. Entering a retroactive Effective Date will result in the following error:

> **Retroactive cancellation is not allowed. Employees who no longer qualify for health enrollment due to reduction in time base or hours must be cancelled prospectively (except in cases of fraud). Use a prospective effective date or contact CalPERS in cases of fraud.**

203 Economically Dependent. Now titled *Reason Code 203 Parent-Child Rel Established*. No functional changes have been made to this reason code.

310 Loss Economically Dependence. Now titled *Reason Code 310 No Parent-Child Relationship*. No functional changes have been made to this reason code.

Relationship Code Changes

Sibling is no longer available as a valid value.

Economically Dependent Child now reads as *Parent-Child.*

Dom Part Economic Child now reads as *Domestic Partner Child.*

ACES Processing Detail Report

An error displays on the ACES Processing Detail Report for Reason Code 502 transactions that attempt to cancel coverage retroactively. The transaction must be re-processed using a future effective date. The message reads:

> **Error: Employees who no longer qualify for health enrollment due to reduction in time base or hours must be cancelled prospectively (except in cases of fraud). Reprocess this transaction using a prospective effective date or contact CalPERS in cases of fraud.**

ACES Health & Membership File Transfer Agencies Only

The following ACES Email was sent to all Health & Membership File Transfer Agencies on or about January 25, 2011:

Changes to ACES will be implemented in order to support Health Care Reform. The following changes will be in effect January 31, 2011. Please modify your existing system at this time to reflect the changes.

- Health Event Reason Code (HERC) Field description changes.
    - HERC 500 - no longer available. Please remove HERC 500 from your system.
    - HERC 502 Time base/tenure chg - *now reads as* HERC 502 Reduction in Time Base/Hours.
    - HERC 203 Economically Dependent - *now reads as* HERC 203 Parent-Child Rel Established.
    - HERC 310 Loss Economically Dependence - *now reads as* HERC 310 No Parent-Child Relationship.
    Please remove and/or modify your system accordingly.

- "Sibling" has been deleted as a valid value for the COMET Relationship Code Field. Please remove this value from your system.

- The following COMET Relationship Code Field values have been modified:
  - "Economically Dependent Child" *has been changed to* "Parent-Child Rel Established"
  - "Dom Part Economic Child" *has been changed to* "Domestic Partner Child"

  Please modify your system accordingly.

If you are part of the California State University system, the Chancellor's Office, Common Management System (CMS) will be making the appropriate changes.

If you have any questions, please contact our Employer Contact Center at **888 CalPERS** (or **888**-225-7377).